

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MEDELLIN

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION BOGOTA INFO PANAMA, MANAGUA, SAN
SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, SAN JOSE, TEGUCIGALPA, MEXICO FROM
SECSTATE APR 21.

QUOTE SECSTATE 075812.

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, CO

SUBJECT: SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE' S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
FOOT- AND- MOUTH DISEASE PROPOSES FMD- FREE ZONE IN COLOMBIA

REF: BOGOTA 3039

1. FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF USDA PRESS RELEASE FOLLOW:
QUOTE FMD ADVISORY COMMITTEE CALLS FOR DISEASE- FREE ZONE
IN COLOMBIA: WASHINGTON, APRIL 19-- THE SECRETARY OF
AGRICULTURE' S ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FOOT- AND- MOUTH DISEASE
(FMD) HAS CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A " DISEASE- FREE"
ZONE IN COLOMBIA TO PROTECT U. S. LIVESTOCK FROM FUTURE
INVASIONS OF THE DISEASE, THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRI-
CULTURE (USDA) REPORTED TODAY.

THE COMMITTEE PROPOSED CREATION OF A JOINT COLOMBIA- UNITED
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STATES COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH THE FMD- FREE ZONE. THE PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY, WHICH IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN PANAMA AND COLOMBIA, COULD PROVIDE A GATEWAY FOR THE NORTHWARD MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND ANIMALS, THUS GREATLY INCREASING THE DANGER OF INTRODUCING FMD. THEREFORE AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER TO FMD IN COLOMBIA IS REQUIRED TO PERMIT COMPLETION OF THE HIGHWAY. THIS SERIOUS LIVESTOCK DISEASE DOES NOT EXIST IN PANAMA OR IN CENTRAL AND NORTH AMERICA, BUT

IT DOES EXIST IN ALL COUNTRIES OF SOUTH AMERICA. UNQUOTE

2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS FROM U. S. LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND FROM ANIMAL DISEASE FIELD. COMMITTEE NOT AWARE OF COLOMBIAN AGRICULTURE MINISTER' S PROPOSAL (BOGOTA 3039) BUT RATHER BASED PROPOSAL ON ITS VIEW OF JOINT U. S./ MEXICO COMMISSION AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL EXAMPLE FOR AFTOSA CONTROL.

3. EMBASSY MAY INFORM VALLEJO OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROPOSAL, INDICATING THAT COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF PRIVATE U. S. CITIZENS FROM LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND ANIMAL DISEASE FIELD, AND THAT THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL POSITIONS OF USG. ALSO THAT ADVISORY COMMITTEE WAS NOT REPEAT NOT AWARE OF VALLEJO' S PROPOSAL THAT TECHNICIANS FROM BOTH COUNTRIES EXAMINE PROBLEMS ON THE SPOT AND FORMULATE JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS TO RESOLVE THEM. YOU SHOULD ADD, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE USG HAS NOT HAD TIME TO THOROUGHLY CONSIDER VALLEJO' S PROPOSAL, WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH IT. IF THE TECHNICIANS CAN AGREE ON THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF AN ADEQUATE CONTROL PROGRAM, A JOINT COMMISSION, ALONG LINES PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY' S ADVISORY COMMITTEE WOULD BE A LOGICAL SECOND STEP IN CONJUNCTION WITH CONTINUATION OF THE DARIEN HIGHWAY PROJECT.

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